

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of controlling printing devices, said method comprising:
 - 5 generating meta-data from printing instructions;
calculating a complexity prediction for each of said printing instructions;
estimating a processing time for each of said printing instructions based on said complexity prediction; and
 - 10 evaluating said printing instructions based on said processing time.
2. The method in Claim 1, wherein said evaluating produces one or more of:
 - 15 an order of processing said printing instructions; and
a cost analysis of said printing instructions.
3. The method in Claim 2, wherein said processing of said printing instructions includes one or more of raster image processing and spooling.
- 20 4. The method in Claim 1, wherein said generating of said meta-data comprises examining one or more of font attributes, font size, vector complexity, digital image content, digital image size, and digital image type.
- 25 5. The method in Claim 1; further comprising supplying an accuracy factor for said complexity prediction.
6. The method in Claim 5, wherein said accuracy factor controls a processing precision of said complexity prediction calculation.
- 30 7. The method in Claim 1, further comprising adding a feedback factor to said complexity prediction based on responses from downstream functions.

8. A method of controlling printing devices, said method comprising:

generating meta-data from printing instructions;
5 examining one or more of font attributes, font size, vector complexity, digital image content, digital image size, digital image type to calculate a complexity prediction for each of said printing instructions;
estimating a processing time for each of said printing instructions based on said complexity prediction; and
10 evaluating said printing instructions based on said processing time.

9. The method in Claim 8, wherein said evaluating produces one or more of:

an order of processing said printing instructions; and
15 a cost analysis of said printing instructions.

10. The method in Claim 9, wherein said processing of said printing instructions includes one or more of raster image processing and spooling.

20

11. The method in Claim 10, further comprising supplying an accuracy factor for said complexity prediction.

12. The method in Claim 11, wherein said accuracy factor controls
25 a processing precision of said complexity prediction calculation.

13. The method in Claim 8, further comprising adding a feedback factor to said complexity prediction based on responses from downstream functions.

30

14. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of controlling printing devices, said method comprising:

- generating meta-data from printing instructions;
- 5 calculating a complexity prediction for each of said printing instructions;
- estimating a processing time for each of said printing instructions based on said complexity prediction; and
- 10 evaluating said printing instructions based on said processing time.

15. The program storage device in Claim 14, wherein said evaluating produces one or more of:

- an order of processing said printing instructions; and
- 15 a cost analysis of said printing instructions.

16. The program storage device in Claim 15, wherein said processing of said printing instructions includes one or more of raster image processing and spooling.

20 17. The program storage device in Claim 14, wherein said generating of said meta-data comprises examining one or more of font attributes, font size, vector complexity, digital image content, digital image size, and digital image type.

25 18. The program storage device in Claim 14, further comprising supplying an accuracy factor for said complexity prediction.

19. The program storage device in Claim 18, wherein said accuracy factor controls a processing precision of said complexity prediction
30 calculation.

20. The program storage device in Claim 14, further comprising adding a feedback factor to said complexity prediction based on responses from downstream functions.

5